

THE NEW YORK PRESS.

ESSENTIAL OPINIONS OF LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS.

RELEASE OF JEFFERSON DAVIS—VAGARY.

From the Times. The Tribune of Monday says:— "It is reported from Washington that a number of well-known gentlemen stand ready to give bail for Jefferson Davis in any required amount, but that the Government is disposed to release him, if at all, upon his parole."

Mr. Greeley is one of the "well-known gentlemen" overflowing with sympathy for Jefferson Davis, and with living zeal chasing up Judge Underwood to offer "bail in any required amount."

Jefferson Davis was the head and front of a Rebellion, in the progress of which a quarter of a million of our sons fell, and for which the nation is carrying a debt of over three thousand millions of dollars.

When this traitor-in-chief was arrested, outraged humanity demanded his trial and punishment. But the Government, under the leadership of Mr. Greeley, was opposed to the "death penalty."

Jefferson Davis. The House of Representatives on Monday, on motion of Mr. Boutwell, of Mass., by a vote of 105 to 19.

Resolved, As the opinion of the House of Representatives, that said Davis should be held in custody as a prisoner, and subjected to trial, according to the laws of the land.

There would seem to be no room for doubt as to the correctness of one proposition here given, since all parties are agreed upon it. The House says Davis should be tried; his counsel says exactly the same, and have been trying, ever since they were allowed to communicate with him, to get his case before a judge and jury.

Judge Underwood held on Monday, on an application for bail, that he was a prisoner of war, therefore not liable. The fact being assumed, the reason is conclusive. But how long may a prisoner of war be held after he is officially declared as an prisoner? Suppose one were held 20 days as a prisoner of war, taken by General Jackson at New Orleans in 1816, would that suffice to bar his liberation?

But how and when did Davis become a prisoner of war? He was not arrested as a public enemy, but as a rebel, and charged, in the face of the civilized world, with the vilest, most execrable guilt—that of having summoned assassins to murder President Lincoln—a crime the basest and most cowardly known to mankind.

Others charged with that horrible deed have been arraigned, tried, some of them long ago acquitted and set at liberty; others executed and buried; and others are now serving out their terms as convict prisoners. Why is this man alone still awaiting trial—not even indicted? Is the charge of assassination abandoned? Then it should be retracted as publicly as it was made.

It has been asserted that Davis is responsible for the death by exposure and famine of our captured soldiers, and his official position gives plausibility to the charge. Yet white Henry Wirz—a miserable wretch—a mere tool of tools—was long ago arraigned, tried, convicted, sentenced, and hanged for this crime—no charge has been officially preferred against Davis. So we presume he is to be.

For eight or ten months, he was not allowed to see his wife or any member of his family, nor to communicate with counsel save by open letters sent through the War Department. At length the cables are crossed, and he is simultaneously indicted for treason. "Now," say his counsel, "we shall get his case into court," and they attend at the very first sitting to call it on.

Now if there be any reason for not trying the case in Virginia, it is perfectly triable in Tennessee. There is ample evidence that Jefferson Davis was at Murfreesboro in 1862, wishing and impelling the Rebel army of Tennessee. Judge Trigg, of that district, is thoroughly loyal; he holds Court at Knoxville, among a people as overwhelmingly loyal as Vermont. Why has not an indictment been found and tried in his Court? Who can say?

The Government of the United States cannot afford to be thus covering and feeling before an alleged criminal. It must come to the light. For what crime he is to be tried, and when; why these hesitations, and why his counsel have to be coaxing and begging for a trial. If he is to be tried at all, he cannot be tried too soon.

One year ago Davis was the fallen chief of an utterly proscribed rebellion. He was unpopular at the South and detested at the North. It is very different now. He has fully regained all the popularity he ever had. Every ex-Confederate regards Davis as suffering for him; and he wins sympathy outside of their circle.

For our own part, and in behalf of some others who believe the true, sufficient basis of reconstruction to be UNIVERSAL ANONYMITY, IMPARTIAL SUFFRAGE—these two, and no more—we demand that this prisoner of war, or prisoner of fate, or whatever he may be, shall have the full legal rights secured to him by the Constitution and laws of the land.

The Fenian Movement and its Probable Results. From the Herald. The Fenian movement in Canada, which was designed by the leaders as a base from which to carry out their plans for the liberation of Ireland, has failed for the present.

Such of the British troops as they met on Canadian soil they defeated at Limestone Ridge; but the United States Regulars, Provost Marshal, and District Attorneys and Sheriffs, on the rear were too much for them. From all the facts developed in this case it seems evident that had it not been for the interference of the Government, there would have been a British flag flying upon British soil in North America.

However, the Government saw it to show its magnanimity, and set an example to other nations as to what strict neutrality really means, and hence it laid a heavy hand upon the Fenian leaders, being loyal and good soldiers, who did as much to maintain the existence of the country in the late war as any other class of the community, did not wish to come into collision with the Government, and hence they obeyed its orders and proclamations were issued against the violation of the neutrality laws, they submitted to the exigencies, and disbanded their men for the present.

The Fenian organization, according to the statement of the leaders and the general sentiment of the masses, is still full of vitality, and will no doubt show itself at some future time, and very probably with some force at the next elections, but in the meantime it is clearly the duty of President Johnson, now that he has extended such beneficent service to Great Britain as to save her principal colony from annihilation, to demand without reservation or delay full payment for all the damages done to our commerce by the piratical raids of the Alabama and other Confederate cruisers fitted out in British ports.

England Abdicates. From the World. One of the most surprising and important events of modern times is the voluntary surrender by Great Britain of her position as one of the great powers of Europe. The change has been so recent that its full significance is as yet hardly recognized in Europe, while on this side of the ocean we have failed to appreciate the important results likely to follow from the non-intervention, peace policy which England has determined to pursue hereafter.

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which sometimes involve a neutral in embarrassment. It is scarcely probable that there should even be a blockade, and all the combats will be near some of the few ships they have left, and will be the result of a European war, to the authorities of European ports. No result of the war is likely to affect us much, and we can afford to let the Continent's powers settle now the map of Europe shall be remodelled, so far as it is likely to be altered. This makes it very easy for us to be calm and impartial at this critical time when war may break out any day, and any suggestions we may offer have the recommendation of being disinterested, and of not having been dictated by hope or fear.

This is a concise statement of the feeling and policy of England, as expressed by the parliamentary leaders and through the press. John Bull gives notice that he has had enough of fighting and is going to confine himself to trading and making money hereafter. It is difficult to realize that a nation which in times past has been so plucky, quarrelsome, and dictatorial, and which has coveted power and glory, should voluntarily resign its position and turn its back upon the past; but this sacrifice the people of England have certainly determined to make, and the fact itself cannot but be regarded as among the most momentous in all current history.

Special Notices. PARDEE SCIENTIFIC COURSE IN LAFAYETTE COLLEGE. In addition to the general course of instruction in the Department of Science, students can pursue those branches which are essentially practical and technical.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS. Sealed Proposals will be received at the office until 12 o'clock A. M. on MONDAY, 13th inst., for the construction of a new building to be erected on the corner of Third and Chestnut streets, in Philadelphia.

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JUST PUBLISHED.—NEW YORK MUSEUM. The Nineteenth Edition of their PHRENOLOGICAL DICTIONARY. To be had free, or our agents, by circulating Secretary, New York Museum of Anatomy, 715 No. 6th Broadway, New York.

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